



OUR MISSION

Creating a Christ-Centered community gathered together...To joyfully worship our God... To grow in faith and knowledge...To love one another...And to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

February Worship Services

SUNDAY,	February 2– 9:00 AM
SUNDAY,	February 9 – 9:00 AM with Communion
SUNDAY,	February 16 – 9:00 AM
SUNDAY,	February 23– 9:00 AM with Communion
WEDNESDAY,	February 26 – 6:30 PM (Ash Wednesday)

Pastor's Message Musing Along the Highway

The road ahead leads us to February. It is a month marked by personal challenge. In our little family my wife will be undergoing knee replacement surgery. It's going to be a partial replacement. The doctors are confident. We are trusting that the Lord will bring about the same result that He did last year when the doctors replaced the other knee. Recovery was swift. I am trusting in prayer that the same will take place this time. (Prayers needed here.)

In our church the end of the month marks the beginning of Lent. Ash Wednesday will be on the 26th. We will mark this more somber time of the year as we are reminded of our mortality through

the application of ashes, hearing the word, "Remember that you are dust and unto dust you shall return." Throughout the season of Lent we will gather weekly on Wednesdays at 6:30 to worship the Lord. This year there will be a hopeful theme struck as we follow the thought that our Lord is a **God of Restoration**. I think, as I look over the materials, that it will be a faith strengthening time for us all. Just a reminder here. Mid-week services will be preceded by a Lenten supper at 5:00. Because my hours as Vacancy Pastor are limited there may be a bit of adjustment to the Wednesday schedule for that period of weeks.

The matter of my schedule has frequently come up over recent days. Folks seem to think that I am here most every day. My schedule brings me to Concordia on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays. It also brings me to you all every Sunday. My hours on the weekdays are from 9:00 am to about 2:00 pm. I can be contacted by email at lwesolik@gmail.com. My cell phone is 621-413-0309. Your calls will always be welcomed.

Musing along this winter roadway is sometimes a melancholy journey. We look back to the holiday celebrations and ahead to the stuff of day to day life with its joys and sorrows. More often than not, our times are marked by grey days and an occasional

stormy, snowy, outburst. Spring seems so far away. It might be a good thing to consider the promise of the Lords call to us, His call does not seem that promising when we first hear it. He says to us all, "Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand." There is hope in repentance. We turn away from the sin and burdens that plague us so. But when we turn away, we face in the direction of the Lord and His reign over us. In grace and forgiveness, he reigns over the devil, the world and our flesh. He reigns, remember in grace and we thus have hope that the kingdom of God is at hand. Hear the concern of the Apostle Paul written in his letter to the Galatians chapter 4, "But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world. .?"

When I mentioned to the pastors in my circuit gathering in Ohio that I was moving to Minnesota, I said to them that, "My wife and I are moving to the bright, sunshiny beaches of . . . Minnesota." We laughed. One piped in saying, "It is true that it can be cold, below zero and the sun will shine brightly." I have experienced that reality in so many ways. So, the somber months are upon us. We are still wondering about our future. Look to the Lord. He is king and this is a small branch of His kingdom. His eye is upon us. He hears our prayers. Let's be about the business of the church with our eyes on Him in Word and Sacrament. Winter does not last forever. Even in Minnesota. Brighter days ARE ahead.

Caring Core Ministry On Sunday the 26th of January we added to the caring ministry of our church by Commissioning five new care givers. These members have received training and will assist the pastor in extending the hope of the gospel to our members who may be confined by age or illness. They will visit and call on our members who are shut ins, make occasional hospital calls, and share information with the Pastor. We thus welcome Virgie Wright, Mike Weir, Bob Kilb, Bruce Avenson, and Paul Dale to the service of the Lord and to His people.

Just a reminder. If someone you know has need of caring or pastoral ministry, please be sure to let us know. Although we are guided by the Spirit of the

Lord, we are not so closely tuned to you all that we can tell by absence, accident, or intuition what's happening with your family. It is ok to call for help.

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter Article – February 2020

Of the three things a person is not to talk about in polite company – religion, politics, and money – the church is called, in one way or another, to talk about all three. Perhaps this is the reason why teaching about stewardship often seems to be an afterthought. It's something that happens only out of necessity when financial constraints are already nipping at the heels.

There is a more excellent way. Stewardship shouldn't be the kind of teaching that comes up only when there is a financial crunch. It should be part and parcel of the ongoing instruction of Christians as they live out their faith in their vocations – members of their family, their society, and their church. This teaching touches upon every facet of our lives; it stakes a claim upon our time, our presence, our prayers, and our possessions.

Stewardship begins with the acknowledgment that we are stewards. A steward is a manager of someone else's possessions. In Christian stewardship, we recognize, according to the Apostles' Creed, that God is the owner of all things as the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. And in His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, He gives us what is His to manage here below.

The principal virtue for stewards is faithfulness. As St. Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth:

"Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful." (1 Cor. 4:2)

Stewards must manage that which belongs to the owner according to the owner's wishes. That is what it means to be faithful in stewardship.

That raises a question: How are Christian stewards to be faithful in their managing of what God has entrusted to them to manage? In other words, what are the specific duties of a Christian steward?

This depends upon what God has revealed in His Word for each of our vocations in life as those in a family (fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, children), society (governors or citizens), and the church (pastors or laity). The Table of Duties from *Luther's Small Catechism* lays this out in helpful and orderly way.

Let's look just at what the laity (hearers as it is labeled in the catechism) owe their pastors:

"In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel." (1 Cor. 9:14)

"Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows." (Gal. 6:6-7)

"Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, 'You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,' and, 'The laborer deserves his wages.' " (1 Tim. 5:17-18)

"We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves." (1 Thess. 5:12-13)

"Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you." (Heb. 13:17)

We can see that the Lord commands hearers to support the work of the ministry with the gifts God endowed them – their time, their presence, their prayers, and their possessions. This is the means by which God blesses His people with His gifts: the ministry with the support of those whom they

serve, and the hearers with the work of the ministry.

St. Paul expounds upon this further in his letters to the church at Corinth. He instructs them to give regularly (1 Cor. 16:1-2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first-fruits (1 Cor. 16:2) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23).

All of this teaching is set forth squarely within the context of stations to which God calls us. This is always appropriate for the church to speak because it instructs God's people in how they are to live out their faith as His stewards under those who are created, redeemed, and sanctified by Him.

Coffee and Treats

Thank you to the following people for providing coffee and treats after worship services in the month of January: Nancy & Jeff Bell, Sue & Paul Dale, Paul Helgerson, and Community Activities. There are slots available to sign up for this fellowship opportunity.

February's Coffee and Treats sign-up sheet is posted on the new "sign-up table". This is important way for us to spend time together in fellowship after worship service. Please stop by and sign up for a Sunday to provide treats. Coffee and lemonade are provided by the church. For those of you who would like to participate, but feel they cannot serve, feel free to donate money for a Sunday treat to Sue Ogorek. I will help facilitate buying the treat and serving. If you have any questions, please see me. Thank you.

January Fellowship Dinner

The fellowship dinner was held on January 22nd at the Kaposia Club. Their banquet room was a warm and friendly place where we shared good food, conversation and good laughs. As a note, there will be no fellowship dinners in the months of February, March and April. Ash Wednesday, February 26th will be the kick off to our Lenten suppers.

Reception For Beth In Review

Sunday the 26th of January, Concordia recognized and celebrated Beth's 16 years of service with her musical talents in the Lord's service. Beth participated during the Service in the Praise Band, an Acclamation of Service conducted by Pastor W., and a reception in her honor after the Service. Refreshments were served at the reception and many kind and heartfelt words were shared by those in attendance in support of Beth. After a few words of response by Beth, the day ended on an upbeat and happy note. Gifts were given by Beth to all of CD's that she recorded. She also asked us to give her suggestions of our favorite songs that might be used in upcoming services.

Thank You From Beth

A heartfelt thank you to everyone for the appreciation you showed me last Sunday. Never, in all my many years as a musician, have I experienced such a show of support. It was wonderful! We should do it every year! :) Seriously, your kind words, the cards and gifts and your presence on Sunday really touched me. It was a very special day for me and I thank you. As a thank you to the congregation, my CDs are still available for free if you missed them last Sunday. Please take as many as you like. I will have them in the Narthex for a few weeks.

February Spaghetti Dinner & Game Day

Mark Sunday February 16th on your calendar for Concordia's Spaghetti Dinner! Yes, Grandpa John's world famous spaghetti sauce will be served. This sauce is so good you will want to bring a quart jar along to take home some extra sauce. Serving will start after bible study about 11:30 am. Bring a friend. Heck bring 2 or more friends. The more people, the more fun! Check the sign-up sheets posted on the table for desserts and helpers. Hope to see you there! After the spaghetti dinner plan to stay for **Concordia's Game Day**. Bring any game of your choice and join in the fun!

Ash Wednesday and Lenten Services

Ash Wednesday Worship Service is Wednesday, February 26th at 6:30 pm. Midweek Lenten Worship

Services will be each Wednesday starting March 4th thru April 1st at 6:30 pm.

Lenten Soup/Sandwich Suppers

It's hard to believe, but Ash Wednesday, February 26th, is only a month away. Our Lenten suppers will begin on Ash Wednesday. As in the past, we kindly ask that a group of people select a Wednesday to host a supper. The group chooses what to serve. We have six Lenten suppers to serve. The dates are February 26th, March 4th, March 11th, March 18th, March 25th and April 1st. There are sign-up sheets posted on the table. If you have any questions, please see Nancy Bell or Sue Ogorek.

Winter Weather Maintenance

The South St. Paul City Ordinance requires all sidewalks to be cleared of snow within 12 hours of the snowfall. If any of you are willing to help with clearing our sidewalks this winter, please see Keith Ogorek.

Winter News

With winter soon approaching, please review the church closing policy:

Worship Services/Events Cancellation and Church Closing Policy

Worship services and other events will proceed as scheduled unless notice is given. As always, if you feel you cannot safely proceed to worship services/events, please make the best decision for you and your family.

When worship services (or other church events) are cancelled due to inclement weather, it will be announced on:

- **WCCO website:** Go to WCCO.com/closings and look for "Concordia Lutheran Church"
- **Radio:** Listen for WCCO-AM (830) to announce "Concordia Lutheran Church"
- **Church website:** Visit www.concordia-ssp.org look for an announcement on the first page

- **Social Media:** Find information at <https://m.facebook.com/concordia.church.southstpaul> or <https://mobile.twitter.com/concordiassp>

On weekdays, the Church office will close during business hours due to inclement weather according to the same guidelines as the South St. Paul Schools. (If the schools close for the day, the office is closed for the day. If the schools are on a two-hour delay, the office is on a two-hour delay.)

Life Line Screenings

Protect your health by participating in the Life Line Screening health screenings that will be held at Concordia Lutheran Church on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to blocked arteries, which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms, which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs, which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heartbeat, which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening for men and women used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package, which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. **In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle or text the word circle to 797979.** There is a sign-up sheet posted on the table. Life Line will call you directly to set up an appointment time. If you have any questions, please see Sue Ogorek, or call me at 651-451-9182.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bruce Avenson
Paul Helgerson
Neil Olson
Kris Westad

BOARD CHAIRPERSON

Board of Community Activities – Sue Ogorek
Board of Elders – Mark Stoltenow 651-283-9541

SUNDAY SCHOOL INSTRUCTORS

Bruce & Gail Avenson and Cathy Johnston

Announcement And Servant Article Deadline

The deadline for turning in bulletin announcement articles is Wednesday each week by 9 am. The deadline for turning in Servant articles is the third Thursday of each month by 9 am. Email is the preferred method for delivering your article(s). concordiachurch@qwestoffice.net

Serving in God's House

Month: February 2020

Please add to your calendar; this is the only notification you will receive.

Thank you!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Communion Helpers</u>	<u>Usher Team Captain</u>	<u>Lay Readers</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Feb 2 9:00 am		Bruce Avenson	Bruce Avenson	2Pt 1:16-21
Feb 9* 9:00 am	Keith Ogorek	Paul Helgerson	Paul Helgerson	1Co 9:24-10:5
Feb 16 9:00 am		Nancy Bell	Paul Dale	2Co 11:19-12:9
Feb 23* 9:00 am	Mark Stoltenow	Kim Huebscher	Bob Kilb	1Co 13:1-13
Feb 26 (Ash Wed) 6:30 pm		Ladies of the Congregation		

*Designates Communion Service

Altar Guild	Keith & Sue Ogorek
Greeters	Muriel Rose
Counters	Mark Stoltenow



CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH
255 WEST DOUGLAS STREET
SOUTH SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55075



We love because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19

